

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /047 W

----- 006686

O R 061530Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 373

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SP

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S RESIGNATION RUMORED

1. RUMORS HAVE SWIRLED YESTERDAY AND TODAY THROUGH POLITICAL AND PRESS CIRCLES IN MADRID THAT RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER ARIAS IS IMMINENT. MOST COMMON VERSION OF RUMOR, AND WHICH MOST FREQUENTLY CIRCULATED BY SPANISH JOURNALISTS, IS THAT ARIAS HAS SUBMITTED EITHER LETTER OF RESIGNATION OR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO RESIGN TO FRANCO AND IS NOW ONLY AWAITING NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE BEFORE ANNOUNCING HIS DEPARTURE.

2. WE HAVE SOUGHT CONFIRMATION OF RUMORS FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER OF PRESIDENCIA STAFF. WHILE IN CURRENT CLIMATE OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY, THEY HESITANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO FULL AND FLAT DENIAL, THEY CONSIDER RESIGNATION IS MOST UNLIKELY. THIS IS ALSO REPORTEDLY OPINION OF MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY ANTONIO CARRO. PRESIDENCIA SOURCES STRESS THAT THEY KNOW OF NO SUCH LETTER, THAT ARIAS DURING PAST TWO DAYS HAS BEEN WORKING NORMALLY, THAT HE CONTINUES TO SCHEDULE EVENTS AND VISITS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD AS IF HE FULLY INTENDS TO COMPLY WITH THEM, AND THAT HIS OVERALL DEMEANOR HARDLY THAT OF A MAN PREPARING TO LEAVE. ARIAS IS
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ATTENDING DINNER BEING GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR FOR PRINCE ON NOV 11.

3. COMMENT: WHILE RUMORS OF THIS SORT NOT
SURPRISING IN AFTERMATH OF LAST WEEK'S SUDDEN SHAKEUPS
AND IN VIEW OF CONTINUING PROTEST RESIGNATION AT LOWER
LEVELS OF GOS, THEIR PERSISTENCE AND THE DETAIL WITH
WHICH THEY ARE CONVEYED SUGGEST IT MAY BE PART OF
STIMULATED WHISPERING CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARIAS. I BELIEVE
ARIAS WILL REMAIN PRIME MINISTER FOR TIME BEING.
RIVERO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID06942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740318-0877
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741167/aaaaceoj.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S RESIGNATION RUMORED
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SP, (ARIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005